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for nocturnal broils, especially as he was without any hopes of assistance, replied very civilly, "Signor, if this be the case, pray accept of it, and may it serve you as well as it has done me, to whom it has been the only shelter from the severity of the weather." The guide disappeared instantly with the cloak, leaving the unhappy Mendo in the deepest affliction, at finding himself alone at such an hour, in a place with which he was totally unacquainted, and he began to give vent to his sorrows by uttering the most piteous sighs.

Polydora, ever watchful, heard the lamentable sounds of the unfortunate Mendo, and supposing them to proceed from Lisidor, began to make a noise. Mendo, on hearing her, resumed his courage. He had heard much of the extraordinary whims of fortune; he called to mind all he had ever heard of the success attending such as were willing to use stratagems on such occasions, and this determined him in making the most of the present occasion. He naturally conjectured that the noise he heard proceeded from some love-sick fair one, who was waiting impatiently the arrival of her lover. Full of this notion he advanced boldly to the lattice, and disguising his voice demanded of the unknown fair one, what she wished with him? Polydora replied, by asking, "Is it you, my dear?" "Yes, madam," replied Mendo. "And what," rejoined Polydora, "has prevented you from coming hither sooner?" "In truth," answered the naked valet, wishing to exhibit his taste for humour on the occasion, "my garments and I have been too busily employed drying ourselves." This answer tended completely to mislead Polydora. She was satisfied she was conversing with Lisidor, and instantly handed through the lattice the cloaths she had prepared, and delivered them to Mendo, with directions to let her see him dressed in them as soon as possible; "For you must be convinced," said she, "that my only enjoyment is your society, and your presence is all that is dear to me in this world."

Mendo, as he received the garments from Polydora reflected that the farce he was playing might, perhaps, be at-

tended with unpleasant consequences to himself, he therefore acknowledged to her, that he was not the person she supposed him to be, but a poor wretch who had been shipwrecked by a dreadful tempest, and that if she wished to present him with the garments, he would feel himself much obliged by her generosity; if not, that she need only say how she would wish him to dispose of them. This discourse threw Polydora into the most extreme perplexity; she was chagrined at hearing language of this kind, when she expected all that tenderness of affection could dictate; "did I not ask you," cried Polydora, "if your name was Lisidor?" "Yes madam," replied the valet, who soon resumed his courage, and conjectured that this must either be Polydora, or some other lady who had fallen in love with his master; he instantly quitted the place, and proceeded to the end of the street, where finding a monastery, he besought their hospitality, and recounted his disasters: his history excited their compassion, and they gave him a lodging for the remainder of the night.

(To be concluded in our next.)

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

DESCRIPTION OF THE ANTIQUE GOLD-
EN ROD, LATELY FOUND NEAR BAL-
LYCASTLE, COUNTY OF ANTRIM.

*(Communicated by the Rev. L. A. Conolly,
Ballycastle.)*

WHEN various causes progres-
sively tend to deprive a country
of its annals, to depress its national
character, and to erase the remem-
brance of its former importance, it is
only by a contemplation of its archi-
tectural ruins, or by the casual dis-
covery of such antiquities as declare the
grandeur of other days, that a just
opinion can be formed of what it once
has been, and perhaps there is no
country of Northern Europe, to which
Ireland, when viewed in this light,
yields a priority of rank; her castles,
her monasteries, her circular towers,
beautiful even in decay, evince the
judgment and taste of their former
possessors, and many a precious jew-
el has been found beneath their walls
which has long survived the memory
of the person it was intended to adorn,

and many a curious relique of elegant workmanship has been found, which bespeaks an early knowledge of the finer arts. Of the latter description the following singular instance has lately occurred in this neighbourhood.

A Peasant, while walking beside a rivulet, near Ballycastle, on the 20th of June last, observed a glittering hook of yellow metal, projecting from a part of the bank where the earth had been recently washed away by the current; on stooping to pull it out, he found it to be the extremity of a rod, thirty-eight inches long, free from rust, and of a bright straw colour; each end was terminated by a narrow hook, inflected in contrary directions; these hooks were massive, about two inches in circumference, and about two inches below the neck of each, the rod was divided into three distinct *virgæ*, which were closely twisted together, in the manner of a toasting fork; the hooks are not included in the length of the rod, which, if extended in a straight line, would measure forty-two inches. Unacquainted with its value, the peasant suffered it to be used as a bauble by his children, until his attention was raised by a person offering more for it than it was apparently worth; he then, with some difficulty, wrenched off one of the hooks, and sent it to a gentleman in Ballycastle, who, on trying it with aquafortis, found it to be entirely of pure gold, and to weigh (in air) twenty ounces and a-half, *avoir-du-poise*. The workmanship, though neat, is simple, it is void of all those embellishments so commonly used in gold and silver ornaments of the middle centuries; it bears no religious symbol and its original purpose remains for the skilful antiquarian to decide.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

HUMANITY TO THE INSANE RECOMMENDED.

PASSING through a neighbouring village some evenings ago, my curiosity was attracted by the tumultuous noise raised by a number of boys; on approaching the place, I perceived that they were diverting themselves at the expense of a miserable maniac,

whom they encircled. One dragged him by the rags of a tattered garment that some humane person had stitched round him: another, placed in the most ludicrous situation, a greasy and rimless hat, through the crown of which appeared the locks of his distracted head; and others tempted him with such questions as they knew would irritate him most. What incoherent nonsense, rude ribaldry and horrid blasphemies did they not provoke him to utter! And the more savage his expressions, the more did they excite the merriment of his unfeeling auditors. To the honour of human nature, the countenances of some of the younger branches of this doughty rabble were "strongly marked" with compassion; and I am persuaded that had they been left to themselves, the little hands that teased the offenceless sufferer, would have been extended towards him in acts of kindness; but their seniors, more sensible of the shame they incurred, and more inventive in cruelty, made them the instruments of the abuses they were too thoughtless to contrive. Some of their parents were present, and though they made a few trite and cursory observations on the levity of youth, they encouraged them to proceed with a half-hidden smile of acquiescence; for, as neither wounds nor bruises were inflicted, they probably stilled the whispers of conscience with the idea that their children were committing only a venial sin.

Would young people allow themselves a slight use of that reason, for the want of which they insult others so much, a moment's consideration might make them compassionate.... Pleasure smiles on their youthful spring, and inexperience suggests that their prosperity will be permanent; but vexation, disappointment, and despair may await them in the paths through which they are to pass. The maid on whose smile their happiness depends, may deceive their hopes through the fickleness of coquetry, or be sold to another through the avarice of her guardians. The wealth for which they may hereafter bravely fight, may be withheld by an unprincipled agent, or be wrested from them by the rapacious plunderer. Their cha-